

Message Text

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TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.) PFOR

SUBJECT: TRAVELING PRESS REPORTAGE: RADIO/TV MAY 18, 1974

----- RADIO, MAY 19 MORNING

FOR ANDERSON FROM POULAIN

SUMMARY: TV NETS SATURDAY NEWS PROGRAMS FEATURED BREAK-
THROUGH IN DAMASCUS; NET RADIOS BEGAN REPORTING SAME BE-
GINNING EARLY AFTERNOON MAY 18 CONTINUING THROUGHOUT
EVENING. END SUMMARY.

----- KISSINGER NO JIMMY THE GREEK

1. CBS-TV 6:30 P.M., MAY 18- KALB FROM JERUSALEM

"WHEN KISSINGER LEFT JERUSALEM THIS MORNING, HE FIGURED
THE ODDS WERE NINE OUT OF TEN THAT HE WOULD FAIL TO BRIDGE
THE GAP BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES AND THAT HE WOULD RETURN TO
WASHINGTON TOMORROW, EMPTY HANDED. HE HAD EVEN DRAFTED A
STATEMENT CONCEDING DEFEAT. BUT SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL
IN DAMASCUS DURING A THREE-AND-A-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT ASSAD, THE SYRIAN SURPRISED THE SECRETARY AND
ACCEPTED THE BASIC OUTLINE OF AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL ON
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DISENGAGEMENT AND A BREAKTHROUGH WAS SCORED. THE LINE

SEPARATING THE TWO ARMIES ON THE GOLAN FRONT WON ASSAD'S APPROVAL AND NOW THE OTHER ISSUES-A BUFFER ZONE, AND A UN PRESENCE, CAN BE RESOLVED FAIRLY QUICKLY. TONIGHT, BEFORE

HIS DEPARTURE FROM DAMASCUS, KISSINGER USING THE PROPER DIPLOMATIC CODE LANGUAGE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE WAS GOING TO GET A DEAL."

SECRETARY KISSINGER QUOTE (DEPARTURE AIRPORT ON FILM):
"THE PRESIDENT AND I HAD EXTENSIVE AND VERY CORDIAL TALKS. SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE AND THE PROSPECTS FOR AN AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN ADVANCED."

KALB -- THE SECRETARY RETURNED TO ISRAEL TONIGHT AFTER HIS BREAKTHROUGH DAY IN SYRIA AND IMMEDIATELY PLUNGED INTO URGENT CONFERENCE WITH TOP ISRAELI LEADERS. THAT WILL CONTINUE TOMORROW. KISSINGER WILL NOW SPEND ANOTHER THREE OR FOUR DAYS IN THE AREA TO COMPLETE THIS AGREEMENT AND THERE IS AN EXCELLENT CHANCE THAT SYRIA AND ISRAEL WILL THEN SIGN IT INTO HISTORY IN GENEVA."

2. NBC-TV 6:30 P.M. MAY 18, 1974 - VALERIANI

"KISSINGER FLEW INTO DAMASCUS ON SHUTTLE SIX TO MAKE A FINAL TRY AT GETTING A BREAKTHROUGH ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS-AGREEMENT ON THE LINE OF DISENGAGEMENT. AND HE GOT IT, ALTHOUGH HE WAS ALSO CARRYING A DRAFT STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY A NEW STEP IN THE TALKS WILL BE NECESSARY IN CASE TODAY'S SESSION WAS NOT PRODUCTIVE. DURING A THREE-AND-A-HALF HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD, KISSINGER LAYED OUT SOME AMERICAN PROPOSALS HE HAD ALREADY DISCUSSED WITH ISRAELI LEADERS YESTERDAY. ASSAD'S REACTION WAS POSITIVE ENOUGH TO CONVINCE KISSINGER TO REMAIN IN THE AREA FOR A FEW MORE DAYS TO WORK OUT A SETTLEMENT AS HE HAD INDICATED IN AN AIRPORT DEPARTURE STATEMENT."(SAME FOOTAGE OF SECRETARY AS CBS)

VALERIANI -- "KISSINGER THEN WENT BACK TO ISRAEL FOR MORE DISCUSSIONS WITH TOP GOVERNMENT LEADERS TONIGHT AND TOMORROW WITH A RETURN TO DAMASCUS LIKELY ON MONDAY. A DIS-
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ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT NOW APPEARS CERTAIN IN A MATTER OF DAYS. IT IS LIKELY THE SIGNING CEREMONY WILL TAKE PLACE IN GENEVA, WHERE ISRAELI AND SYRIAN REPRESENTATIVES WILL THEN WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF IMPLEMENTATION. IF IT COMES OFF AS EXPECTED, KISSINGER THINKS IT COULD BE A TURNING POINT IN THE HISTORY OF THE ME.

3. CBS RADIO, MAY 18, 5:00 P.M. - KALB FROM JERUSALEM

"KISSINGER QUICKLY PLUNGED INTO URGENT CONFERENCE WITH PM MEIR AND OTHER TOP ISRAELI LEADERS WITHIN ONE HOUR AFTER HIS RETURN FROM DAMASCUS. HE APPEARED CONFIDENT THAT HE WOULD WIN ISRAELI ENDORSEMENT OF A DISENGAGEMENT LINE TO BE DRAWN BETWEEN THE TWO CONTENDING ARMIES ON THE GOLAN FRONT. HE HAD WON SYRIA'S ENDORSEMENT EARLIER IN THE DAY, DURING A THREE-AND-A-HALF-HOUR TALK WITH PRESIDENT ASSAD, MUCH TO HIS SURPRISE IT MIGHT BE ADDED, EARLIER IN THE DAY, BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR DAMASCUS, KISSINGER FIGURED THAT THE ODDS WERE NINE OUT OF TEN THAT HE WOULD FAIL TO BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL AND HE WOULD RETURN TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW EMPTY-HANDED. BUT THEN ASSAD HAD HIS CHANGE OF HEART -- A BREAK-THROUGH WAS REGISTERED AND NOW THERE IS AN EXCELLENT CHANCE FOR A DEAL WITHIN THREE OR FOUR DAYS, AND A SIGNING CEREMONY IN GENEVA BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL SHORTLY THERE-AFTER."

4. CBS RADIO, MAY 19, 1974, 9:00 A.M. - KALB FROM JERUSALEM

"THE MAJOR ISSUE HAS NOW BEEN RESOLVED. BOTH SIDES HAVE APPARENTLY AGREED ON WHERE THE LINE IS TO BE DRAWN AND SEPARATING THEIR ARMIES ON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. NOW THE NEGOTIATION OF THESE SO-CALLED COLLATERAL ISSUES BEGINS IN EARNEST. FOR EXAMPLE, THE UN BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES, HOW MANY UN TROOPS, FROM WHERE WITH WHAT KIND OF LIMITED FORCES ZONE; HOW WIDE WILL IT BE? HOW MUCH MAN POWER AND FIRE POWER WILL BE ALLOWED IN IT? THE EXCHANGE OF POW'S WITH WOUNDED FIRST, THE REST WITHIN A WEEK OR LESS. ON ANY OF THESE ISSUES, THERE COULD BE UNCLASSIFIED

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MAJOR PROBLEMS BUT THIS IS A COMMON ASSUMPTION HERE AND IN DAMASCUS THAT THESE ISSUES WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF IN ANOTHER TWO HAK SHUTTLES BETWEEN THE TWO CAPITALS, AND AN AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED AND SIGNED IN GENEVA PERHAPS AT THE END OF THE WEEK." RUSH

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